

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method for extracting a polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

lowering the temperature of the entire contact lens with a cryogenic substance to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold to a point where removing the lens will not damage the lens, and

thereafter removing the lens from the mold.

2. (canceled)

3. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of lowering the temperature of the contact lens comprises directly contacting the contact lens with the cryogenic substance.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

5. (previously presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of lowering the temperature of the contact lens comprises indirectly cooling the contact lens by contacting the mold with the cryogenic substance while the lens is in contact with the mold.

6. (original) The method of claim 5 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the contact lens comprises a siloxane-containing polymer.

8. (currently amended) A method for extracting a siloxane containing polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

bringing the lens into contact with a cryogenic substance for a time sufficient to lower the temperature of the entire lens to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold to a point where removing the lens will not damage the lens,

separating the lens from the mold, and

recovering the lens.

9. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

10. (original) A method according to claim 8 wherein the step of separating the lens from the mold comprises lowering the temperature of the lens to a temperature at which the lens will release from the mold without the application of external force to the lens.

11. (currently amended) A method for extracting a siloxane containing polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

indirectly cooling the contact lens by bringing the mold into contact with a cryogenic substance for a time sufficient to lower the temperature of the entire lens to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold to a point where removing the lens will not damage the lens,

separating the lens from the mold, and
recovering the lens.

12. (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

13. (original) A method according to claim 11 wherein the step of causing separation of the lens from the mold comprises lowering the temperature of the lens to a temperature at which the lens will release from the mold without the application of external force to the lens.

14. (currently amended) A method for extracting a siloxane containing polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

orienting a contact lens bearing mold upon a carrier such that the contact lens may fall from the mold;

situating a contact lens collector so as to collect a contact lens which may separate from the mold and fall;

indirectly cooling the entire contact lens by causing the mold to come into intimate contact with a cryogenic substance; causing separation of the lens from the mold; and
collecting the lens.

15. (original) A method according to claim 14 wherein the step of causing separation of the lens from the mold comprises causing the mold to come into intimate contact with a cryogenic substance for a time sufficient to lower the temperature of the lens to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold to a point where the lens will automatically separate from the mold and fall to the lens collector.

16. (original) A method according to claim 15 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

17. (currently amended) A method for manufacturing a siloxane containing polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

bringing two mold halves together to form a lens mold;

filling the mold with an uncured polymer;

curing the polymer in the mold;

separating the mold halves from one another;

bringing the mold half bearing the contact lens into contact with a cryogenic substance for a time sufficient to lower the temperature of the entire lens to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold half to a point where removing the lens will not damage the lens;

separating the lens from the mold half, and

recovering the lens.

18. (original) A method according to claim 17 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

19. (original) A method according to claim 18 wherein the step of causing separation of the lens from the mold half comprises bringing the mold half bearing the lens into contact with a cryogenic substance for a time sufficient to lower the temperature of the lens to a temperature sufficient to reduce adhesion between the lens and the mold half to a point where the lens will fall from the mold half when the mold half is oriented above the lens.

Claims 20 – 42. (canceled)

43. (new) A method for extracting a polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

lowering the temperature of the lens to a temperature at which the lens will release from the mold without the application of external force to the lens.

44. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the step of lowering the temperature of the contact lens comprises directly contacting the contact lens with the cryogenic substance.

45. (new) The method of claim 44 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

46. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the step of lowering the temperature of the contact lens comprises indirectly cooling the contact lens by contacting the mold with the cryogenic substance while the lens is in contact with the mold.

47. (new) The method of claim 46 wherein the cryogenic substance is selected from the group consisting of liquid nitrogen, liquid helium and solid carbon dioxide.

48. (new) The method of claim 43 wherein the contact lens comprises a siloxane-containing polymer.

49. (new) A method for extracting a siloxane containing polymeric contact lens from a mold, the method comprising:

orienting a contact lens bearing mold upon a carrier such that the contact lens may fall from the mold;

situating a contact lens collector so as to collect a contact lens which may separate from the mold and fall;

causing the mold to come into intimate contact with a cryogenic substance, thereby indirectly cooling the contact lens to a temperature at which the lens will release from the mold without the application of external force to the lens; and

collecting the lens.